



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



News Release

New England Field Office

53 Pleasant Street Room 2100 • Concord, NH 03301
(603) 224-9639 • (603) 225-1434 (fax) • www.nass.usda.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June, 2008

Contact: Dave Mikelson
(603) 227-3121

USDA FORECASTS ANNUAL CRANBERRY PRODUCTION

Concord, NH - In August of each year, USDA publishes the official cranberry production forecast for the five major cranberry-producing States. In Massachusetts, the survey is conducted by the New England field office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). Last year about 23 percent of the total cranberries produced in the United States were grown in Massachusetts. Wisconsin accounted for 58 percent of the total production. Oregon, New Jersey and Washington accounted for the remaining production.

"The Cranberry Growers Survey is the only chance to officially forecast production for the 2008 crop by NASS," explained Gary Keough, director of the NASS New England Field Office. Approximately 350 Massachusetts growers will be asked for their help in this effort to forecast production. The questionnaire is mailed near the end of July with a phone follow-up in early August. As with all NASS surveys, individual information provided by respondents is held confidential by law. "NASS safeguards the confidentiality of all responses and publishes only state and national level data, ensuring that no individual operation or producer can be identified," stated Keough.

Representatives from the New England field office will contact Massachusetts' cranberry growers and ask them to provide information on their acreage and expected production. Forecasted production estimates for the 2008 Massachusetts' crop will be available in the ***Cranberry Report*** from New England Agricultural Statistics on August 19, 2008 at 1:00 PM. All reports from NASS are available on the Internet at www.nass.usda.gov. For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS New England Field Office at 1-800-642-9571.